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towns, such as Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, and others, from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 out of their true position. He estimates that in the case of the Oswego Midland Railroad, \$20,000,000 might have been saved to the people of the State had they possessed an accurate topographical map. He proposes to establish permanent monuments, to be used by local surveyors, and to be the basis of topographical maps, whose position shall be determined by a general triangulation throughout the State, at an estimated cost of not more than \$200,000. Of the \$20,000 appropriated for the first year's work, only a little over \$3,000 was expended, and yet, in spite of the general approbation manifested by the most intelligent men throughout the country, opposition to the undertaking has been made on the ground that it is a great and unnecessary expense, and one which the condition of the country does not demand. Surely a State which has already spent \$7,000,000 and is about to spend as much more upon a Capitol, with regard to the beauty of which, to use a mild expression, architects seriously disagree, and which certainly can be of no practical benefit to the people at large, ought to be able to give as much as this to enable its citizens to know where they live, whether they are fairly taxed, and what are the boundaries of their land.

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13. — *Gastronomy as a Fine Art; or, The Science of Good Living: A Translation of the "Physiologie du Goût" of Brillat-Savarin.* By R. E. ANDERSON, M. A. London: Chatto and Windus. 1877.

PRESUMING that among all the reserved rights of the publishers or translator of the "*Physiologie du Goût*," the right of criticism is not included, we must venture the remark that Mr. Anderson's *raison d'être* can hardly be considered sufficient for his performance. "The present attempt," says Mr. Anderson, "to present Brillat-Savarin in an English dress is due to a statement made last year in '*Notes and Queries*,' to the effect that a translation was and had long been a decided want in English libraries." Such a want may have long been felt in English libraries, but it is not a violent presumption that most people who resort to English libraries are able to read Brillat-Savarin in his vernacular, and if they cannot, the translation of Mr. Anderson will scarcely give them an adequate idea of the original. There have been several attempts made at rendering this most Frenchy of French authors into English, and there was published in New York, some twenty-five years ago, a rendering of the "*Physiologie*" into our mother tongue by Fayette Robinson, which, if not as scholarly as the translation of Mr. An-

derson, answered a good purpose in affording English readers an opportunity of judging of the scope and merits of the work. What Brillat-Savarin needs is not translating into English, but competent editing in French; and it is surprising that a work so often quoted as the "Physiologie du Goût," which may be regarded as a classic, should not have already received that editorial attention which a good many works of lesser merit have had bestowed upon them. By English readers generally Brillat-Savarin seems to be regarded as a Ude or a Soyer, or a Gallic Doctor Kitchener, but, as an author, he is *sui generis*. Mr. Anderson compares him to "that charming student of humanity, Montaigne," but there never were two authors who were so dissimilar in all essential characteristics. There is not in the "Physiologie du Goût" a particle of cynicism, or of that petulant ill-nature which is the result of personal suffering, which gives a kind of piquancy to Montaigne, who takes his reader into unreserved confidence in his diaries. The author of the "Physiologie" is equally unreserved, but it is in admitting his readers to a participation in his enjoyments; if he ever had any uncomfortable experiences, and he must have had many, he keeps them to himself. He is always gay, and overflowing with good-humor, notwithstanding the tragedies of which he was the witness, and the privations he must have endured when thrown upon his own personal resources in exile. He was a philosopher always, and he had established a reputation by his essays on political economy (*Vues et Projets d'Economie politique*, 1802), by his essay on duels, his work on the Archæology of the Department of L'Ain, as a member of the Constituent Assembly, and as judge of the Court of Cassation, long before he had been heard of as an authority in gastronomical science. The "Physiologie du Goût" was, in truth, the last product of his varied and long-protracted career; and although the style in which it is written is gay and graceful, and it abounds in sallies of brilliant *persiflage* and wit, it was not published until his seventy-first year, in 1826, and although he died within the year of its publication, he had the happiness of witnessing its popularity and of enjoying the fame it brought him. It has grown in popularity from the day of its publication, and has been studied with profit by many, who think it important that human life should be rendered as agreeable and innocent as the conditions of an earthly existence will permit. Few authors have achieved a reputation by their works after attaining to the years of threescore and ten, — a period at which Dr. Johnson, to test his intellectual powers, commenced the study of Dutch.

But Brillat-Savarin felt no misgivings in bestowing his "Physiologie" upon mankind; he was still fresh and vigorous, and his memory capacious, at the age of seventy. What he did fear was that his work might be

considered as frivolous, as the product of an old man whose official occupations had been of a grave character. He had special qualifications for his work. He knew the world; he had travelled extensively; he was master of seven languages; his favorite authors had been Voltaire, Jean Jacques, Fénelon, and Buffon. He had studied chemistry and physiology, and his memory was a vast repertory of facts and words. He enjoyed good health, was well connected, easy in his circumstances, and above all he was endowed with a benevolent nature that no adverse condition could impair. There was nothing lacking to render him in all respects adequate to the task he imposed upon himself of teaching mankind how to live, and he accomplished his work so well that it remains, and is likely to remain, unequalled in its special character. He did not profess to teach the art of Cookery, but some of his inventions in the preparation of delicious dishes, of which he gives hints, are still in use on both sides of the Atlantic. After escaping the guillotine, as he did by the skin of his teeth, he found his way to the United States, at a time when Talleyrand and Louis Philippe, and many others of his countrymen sought a shelter in this country, but he tells very little of the means by which he earned his living here; it is well known, however, that during the three years he remained on this side of the Atlantic, at the close of the last century, he taught French, and at one time he led the orchestra at the Park Theatre. He mentions being in Boston, and of teaching M. Julien in that town how to make *fondue*. He tells some characteristic stories of New York society, and always in good-nature, but he gives us a charming idyllic picture of rural life in New England for which every New-Englander should render him homage. An old American farmer "who lived in the backwoods," as he calls a place in the neighborhood of Hartford, invited him to his plantation to shoot partridges, gray squirrels, and wild turkeys. Accordingly on a fine day in October, 1794, he set out with a companion, both mounted on hacks, in the hope of reaching, by dusk, Mr. Barlow's farm, fifteen miles from Hartford." After inspecting the farm, which he would be happy to describe, as he says, did he not prefer to describe his host's four buxom daughters, whose ages ranged from sixteen to twenty. "They were radiant with freshness and health, and in all their manners and movements so simple, lithe, and easy, that even the most ordinary movement lent them a thousand charms." The dinner to which the farmer treated them "consisted of a superb joint of corned beef, a stewed goose, and a magnificent haunch of mutton, with vegetables of all kinds, and at each end of the table two huge jugs of excellent cider, of which he never tired of drinking. After tea they retired to bed, where they slept luxuriously, and the next morning started for the virgin forest, where they

had a fine day's sport in shooting wild turkeys, partridges, and squirrels, and on returning to the farm found the four sisters waiting for them in fresh dresses, new sashes, pretty hats, and dainty boots"; another good dinner followed, with cider, and punch, and songs, and conversation about the war and Lafayette and agriculture. The birds, the turkeys, and the squirrels were taken to Hartford the next day, and were served up artistically by the jovial Savarin himself as a banquet to his friends. It is somewhat strange that although he bestows so much praise upon the wild turkey, he does not anywhere make mention of any other of our game birds or fishes. He does not appear to have known anything of shad, nor of our oysters, nor of the canvas-back ducks which our European visitors are now so eager to become acquainted with.

The famous "Fundamental Truths" of Brillat-Savarin, twenty in number, will not all bear examination; some of them are paradoxical, and some are unmeaning; the fifth of them is, however, fundamental, and is the key to the whole mystery of the art of good living.

14. — *Goethe : Vorlesungen gehalten an der Königl. Universität zu Berlin* von HERMAN GRIMM. Berlin : Wilhelm Hertz. 1877.

*Goethe : Lectures delivered at the Royal University in Berlin, by HERMAN GRIMM.* 1877. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 314, 303.

THE press of Germany has been groaning in travail with the works of Goethe, and with the works about him, for nearly half a century since his death, and there does not seem to be any near prospect of the travail ceasing. Within a year several new and elaborate biographies of him have been announced, and each author appears to be sure of presenting some new aspect of this many-sided man. Herman Grimm has an evident advantage in his chosen point of view, as he undertakes to set forth the great poet less as the Apollo of Weimar and its Parnassus than as the master genius of Germany at large in the new pride of its consolidated empire. He gives these lectures of laudation in Berlin, which has been sometimes jealous of Weimar and her demigods of culture, and which has tried in former years to set up her severer thinkers and scholars, such as Humboldt and his associates in science and philosophy, as the greater lights. This jealousy has now vanished. The Emperor is glad to inaugurate the statue of the Grand Duke of Weimar, the patron of the poet, and Herman Grimm is welcomed to the Royal University of Berlin to put upon his hero's head the crown of honor in the name of united Germany.

These lectures are very full and instructive; especially rich in treat-